

## Greetings FHI Stakeholders!

Starting this month, the Family Homelessness Initiative will be sending out monthly email “updates” to keep you informed of the work that is happening with the Initiative and family homelessness in our community.

### KEY INITIATIVE NEWS

#### Reminder to RSVP for the System Realignment Learning Opportunity!

Capacity building grant recipients are invited to hear about and participate in the next phase of work. (Others are welcome to attend, but pending room capacity issues we may need to contact you about your RSVP.) The meeting will provide updates on:

- The first phase of program realignment (including a small group of agencies that have been selected to start realignment)
- Next steps for the remaining providers not involved in that process
- The tools and supports available to your agencies
- The second installment of Building Changes Capacity Building Grants

**Thursday, July 24, 2014**

**9:30am – 12:00pm**

Bellevue Library - 1111 110th Ave. NE Bellevue, 98004

**If you would like to attend, please RSVP by July 17 using the following link:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SystemRealignmentRSVP>

### CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

#### NEW FHI ADVISORY GROUP:

In May, the Interagency Council (IAC) re-authorized the Families Initiative Charter, which included the creation of an Advisory Group with regional membership to continue to guide implementation of the Family Homelessness Initiative. The Advisory Group will advance, guide, and monitor the work of the Family Homelessness Initiative over the course of the implementation of the Moving Forward Strategic Plan (the Plan). It is not a governing body and operates in an advisory function to the IAC. The Advisory Group will include membership from providers, funders, mainstream services, and consumers. Others, including additional provider and planner staff, will be involved in the process through focus groups, etc. as needed. To supplement involvement from additional stakeholders, there will be various opportunities for involvement (e.g. monthly stakeholder information sessions, ad hoc workgroups, and strategic outreach to community meetings, such as sub regional homeless/human services meetings). The FHI Advisory Group will hold its first meeting in early August.

#### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES - NEWS & UPDATES:

##### *System Realignment Work*

Initiative staff are currently meeting with selected agencies to discuss their participation in the first phase of realignment. If your agency is interested in undertaking realignment during this first phase and you have not already been contacted, please call or email [Debbi Knowles](#) or [Triina Tennelo](#). Final determinations will be made through July.

If you are interested in learning more about System Realignment, please visit the [FHI website](#).

## *Coordinated Entry Updates*

### ▪ **Request for Proposal for Coordinated Entry Analysis and Refinement Released**

After two years of implementing coordinated entry, we are taking a step back to evaluate what is working, what we have learned from implementation, what we can learn from other communities, and what refinements or changes may be appropriate at this point. In order to do that, the Committee to End Homelessness (Family Homelessness Initiative) is soliciting a qualified consultant to assist in the analysis and refinement of the current CEA system for families. The RFP was released in June and proposals are currently being reviewed. Our expectation is to have the consultant begin in August. The consultant will conduct an analysis of the current system, identify areas of strengths, challenges, and gaps, and make recommendations for refinement. We anticipate this process will take 3-4 months and will include opportunities for stakeholder (providers, FHC staff, consumers, and funders) input, such as - one-on-one meetings, feedback sessions, and facilitated meetings. The new Family Homelessness Initiative Advisory Group will provide guidance and oversight to the process.

If you have any questions about the process, please feel to contact Michelle Valdez at [michelle.valdez@cehkc.org](mailto:michelle.valdez@cehkc.org) or Debbi Knowles at [Debbi.Knowles@cehkc.org](mailto:Debbi.Knowles@cehkc.org).

### ▪ **Family Housing Connection Call-back Data**

Family Housing Connection (FHC) recently facilitated a process of contacting every family on the placement roster (this included families with waitlist dates from April 23, 2012- January 14, 2014). Families were contacted to update their status and to inform them of recent programmatic changes, including the revised eligibility criteria. 4,036 families were contacted between January and June 2014. Communications Specialists attempted to contact families three times, during different periods of the process to account for lack of phone minutes, access to email/internet, etc. Families who were not reached after the third attempt were made inactive and removed from the placement roster, as well as any family who no longer met the current eligibility requirement (HUD Category 1).

Of the 4,036 families who FHC contacted (or attempted to contact) –

- **3, 320** families were removed from the roster (they were doubled up, in their own housing, in another housing program, or were unable to be reached).
- **716** families remained on the placement roster (**498** were “unsheltered” and **218** were in a shelter). Additionally, all of the families that were still unsheltered during the call-backs were offered diversion services through the new pilot that launched in January.

See the attached document for an overview of the data outcomes from the call-backs. You can also access the information on our website.

### ▪ **Occupancy Data**

At the June IAC meeting, members requested CEH examine the occupancy rates of family shelter and transitional housing in order to better understand how the implementation of coordinated entry has affected program occupancy. In collaboration with Safe Harbors, FHI staff prepared a chart using the utilization data reported to HUD on our local Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). The data indicates the average occupancy rates in emergency shelter and transitional housing programs for families with children have gone up since the launch of Family Housing Connection. The AHAR Utilization chart is available on the FHI website (right hand bar under Data).

## OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE TO END HOMELESSNESS:

CEH has released its 2013 Annual Report—access it at [http://www.cehkc.org/DOC\\_reports/CEH\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2013.pdf](http://www.cehkc.org/DOC_reports/CEH_Annual_Report_2013.pdf).

For more information on CEH or to see the most recent All Things CEH, visit our website at [www.cehkc.org](http://www.cehkc.org)

### UPCOMING FUNDING OR TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

#### *King County Combined Funders Notice of Funding Availability*

Six public and private funders of homeless housing in King County are pleased to announce the release of the 2014 Combined NOFA for non-time limited Homeless Housing for Families, Individuals, and Young Adults. The funders are aligned to common priorities for non-time limited housing with support services that were adopted through the Committee to End Homeless in King County.

Read the full notice [here](#).

#### *Upcoming Webinar: Addressing the Needs of Families Impacted by Domestic Violence through Rapid Re-Housing*

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Family and Youth Service Bureau's Family Violence Prevent Services Program invites you to learn about approaches that work to help families impacted by domestic violence by providing access to housing and trauma-informed supportive services. This webinar will feature the Oregon Volunteer of America's Home Free Program and the Washington State Coalition's Domestic Violence Housing First Program. Presenters will specifically discuss two rapid re-housing programs designed to assist individuals and families impacted by domestic violence.

**Registration:** The webinar is being held on Monday, July 14 at 1:30 pm Eastern Time (ET). [Register](#) for the webinar now.

If you have any questions about this webinar, please contact Shawndell Dawson, Senior Program Specialist, Family Violence Prevention and Services Program, at [Shawndell.Dawson@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:Shawndell.Dawson@acf.hhs.gov).

#### *Free Fair Housing Workshops*

In July, the King County Office of Civil Rights will hold several workshops on the federal Fair Housing Act as well as state and local fair housing laws. These trainings are recommended for shelter managers, property managers and landlords (Register [here](#))

- Introduction to Fair Housing Workshop: Wednesday, July 16, 9:00 am—noon, Seattle City Hall, Bertha Landes Knight Room, 600 Fourth Avenue, Seattle
- Advanced Fair Housing Seminar: Wednesday, July 16, 1:00—3:00 pm, Seattle City Hall, Bertha Landes Knight Room, 600 Fourth Avenue, Seattle
- Introduction to Fair Housing for Landlords and Property Managers: Wednesday, July 23, 9:30-11:30 am, Federal Way City Hall, Council Chambers, 33325 8th Avenue South, Federal Way

### ***Webinar: How Trauma-Informed is Your Organization?***

The National Center on Family Homelessness' Kathleen Guarino will present a webinar: *How Trauma-Informed is Your Organization? Assessing and Improving Organizational Performance*, on July 24 from noon-1 PM. She will discuss tangible, concrete things organizations can do to implement trauma-informed practices. The [Trauma-Informed Organizational Self-Assessment](#) introduced as a tool for assessing current practices and laying a foundation for shifting to trauma-informed organizational policies and practices. (Register [here](#))

## **WHAT'S COMING UP**

### ***Monthly FHI Stakeholder Information Session - now combined with FHC Feedback Sessions!***

The Family Homelessness Initiative staff host monthly information sessions on the 3rd Wednesday of the month to talk with local stakeholders (providers and funders) about the work of the Initiative. This is an opportunity to hear about current projects, what is coming up next, to ask questions and provide input.

NOTE: Beginning July 2014, these sessions will be held from 9:00-10:00am and immediately followed by the Family Housing Connection (FHC) feedback session.

Contact Triina Tennelo at 206-263-9110/[triina.tennelo@kingcounty.gov](mailto:triina.tennelo@kingcounty.gov) or visit the Initiative website for more information.

**Next FHI Info Session:** The next FHI Info Session will be held on Wednesday, July 16 from 9:00-10:00am at CCS (100 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave S – Seattle)

**Next FHC Feedback Meeting:** The next FHC feedback meeting will be held immediately after the FHI Info Session on Wednesday, July 16 from 10:00-11:00am at CCS. This is an opportunity for service providers and partners to hear updates on new policy/procedures at FHC and to provide FHC with feedback. These are held at CCS every quarter. Contact Emily Harris-Shears at [EmilyHS@ccsww.org](mailto:EmilyHS@ccsww.org) for more information.

If you have any questions about any of the above updates, or if you would like to add any announcements to future monthly emails, you can contact Michelle Valdez at [michelle.valdez@cehkc.org](mailto:michelle.valdez@cehkc.org).

Visit our website to learn more about the Family Homelessness Initiative or to locate any of the documents referenced in this email, at [www.kingcounty.gov/familyhomelessness](http://www.kingcounty.gov/familyhomelessness).

You can also contact any of the Initiative staff for more information at:

*Debbi Knowles – [debbi.knowles@cehkc.org](mailto:debbi.knowles@cehkc.org) or 206.263.9088, Triina Tennelo – [triina.tennelo@cehkc.org](mailto:triina.tennelo@cehkc.org) or 206.263.9110, or Michelle Valdez – [michelle.valdez@cehkc.org](mailto:michelle.valdez@cehkc.org) or 206.263.1350*